

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 H-03 SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/LC:JPMURPHY:DTM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205145

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EA, CB

SUBJECT: SENATOR KENNEDY'S LETTER TO LON NOL

REF: PHNOM PENH 10790

1. IOG'S REPLY TO SENATOR KENNEDY WAS ENTERED INTO CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OCTOBER 2. TEXT FOLLOWS. BEGIN QUOTE (TELEGRAM SEPTEMBER 28, 1973). TO SENATOR KENNEDY, FROM OLAF STROH, IOG. REFERENCE YOUR TELEGRAM 13 SEPTEMBER 1973, APPRECIATE YOUR ENCOURAGING INTEREST FOR RED CROSS ACTIVITIES IN CAMBODIA. DESPITE DIFFICULT CONDITIONS, IOG ALREADY UNDERTOOK MEASURES TO TRY TO OBTAIN ESTABLISHMENT OF NEUTRAL ZONES. GENERAL MEDICAL TEAMS PERMANENTLY ON THE SPOT WORKING FOR SICK AND WOUNDED. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ALSO GIVEN ESPECIALLY TO DISPLACED PERSONS SUCH AS SHELTERS AND ADDITIONAL NUTRITION TO CHILDREN. ARE CONSCIOUS THAT FAR GREATER ASSISTANCE BADLY NEEDED IN CAMBODIA BUT HAVE TO ADAPT OUR ACTIVITIES TO LIMITED FINANCIAL RESOURCES PUT AT OUR DISPOSAL BY GOVERNMENTS AND NATIONAL SOCIETIES FOR THE
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TOTAL PROGRAMME IN ALL INDOCHINA. END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT. KENNEDY'S AMENDMENT ADOPTED IN OCTOBER 2 SENATE AUTHORIZATION FOR FY 1974 FOREIGN AID PROGRAM (S2335, SEC. 802(B) WOULD EARMARK TEN MILLION DOLLARS OF AID FUNDS AUTHORIZED FOR INDOCHINA QUOTE TO SUPPORT HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS OF THE INDOCHINA OPERATIONS GROUP OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IN SOUTH VIETNAM, CAMBODIA AND LAOS. UNQUOTE.

THE HOUSE VERSION (HR 9360) CONTAINS NO RPT NO SUCH PROVISION.

3. OUR POSITION WITH THE CONGRESS IS THAT WE OPPOSE THIS EARMARKING AS UNNECESSARY AND VERY POSSIBLY INIMICAL TO THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH IT IS INTENDED. AID HAS ALREADY MADE GRANTS OF A TOTAL OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS FOR PROGRAMS IN CAMBODIA, AND IS PRESENTLY NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT FOR TWO MILLION DOLLARS AS A FURTHER CONTRIBUTION TO ICRC ACTIVITIES IN INDOCHINA. AID WOULD BE PREPARED TO INCREASE ITS FUNDING AS THE ICRC DEMONSTRATES ITS CAPABILITY FOR EXPANDED ACTIVITIES AND WITHIN A REASONABLE PROPORTIONATE SHARING OF ITS PROGRAMS WITH OTHER DONORS.

4. AMENDMENT OF THE PROVISION TO APPLY THE EARMARKING TO PROGRAMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS "OR OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL GROUPS OR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES" WOULD ALLOW AID TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS WHICH CAN BE IMPLEMENTED AND ARE NEEDED IN INDOCHINA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. KISSINGER

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